Damage to crop and soil due to recent flood

†1263. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flood, which ravaged various parts of the country this year, has not only caused heavy damage to Kharif crop, but also decreased the fertility of the soil;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by Government in this regard;

(c) if so, State-wise details of the damage caused to the crops by the flood;

(d) whether Government is considering to provide any help to the farmers to compensate the loss; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the fertility of the soil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-fixation of MSP for agricultural products

1264. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has still not declared the MSP for 14 agricultural products even after the beginning of Kharif season;

(b) if so, the details of agricultural products whose MSP has not been fixed so far;

(c) the reasons for the enormous delay in fixing the MSP for the above products; and

(d) by when, the MSP for the above 14 products is going to be fixed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Minimum Support Prices of all Kharif Crops of 2008-09 season, comprising of fourteen crops, have already been fixed by the Government in August, 2008.

Problems faced by farmers

1265. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of demand and supply of wheat, pulses and edible oils in the country in the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is showing great interest in importing these items rather than increasing production in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prime impediments in production is the problem of irrigation and farm loans; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to assist the farmers in these two aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) On the basis of per capita quantities of consumption reported in National Sample Survey

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi